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US Department of Justice
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Comments re Microsoft Anti Trust Case

I would like to comment on the DOJ/ Microsoft settlement of the Microsoft Anti Trust Case. As a consumer of Microsoft product I strongly endorse the agreement.


This case has been maneuvered from the start by Microsoft's competitors in a very sophisticated manner, starting with Joel Klein's visit to Palo Alto at the invitation of Scott McNealy and other competitors of Microsoft in that area to plan an attack on Microsoft.

Very little has ever been said from the consumers standpoint. They have expressed their support by buying the Microsoft products which have set today's standard of computer useage. I am attaching letters sent to Business Week Magazine of December 10th in response to an article Business week had run on Scott McNealy and his vendetta against Microsoft. I have included all of these consumer letters and they all support Microsoft.

The States' cases against Microsoft are a crass money grab based on the amazing charge that their citizens have been charged too much for their computer products. It is hard to imagine someone fairly establishing what Microsoft should have charged. The consumer, again has had alternative choices for most of his needs and has supported Microsoft by his purchases of their products.

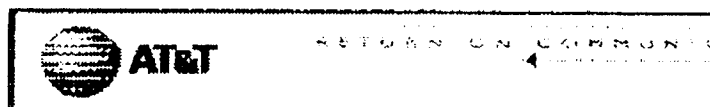
The opportunity to comment on this case and it's ramifications is appreciated. I would urge the court to accept your settlement plan and remove this distraction from the industry.

Sincerely,



Attachments: Letters to Business Week Issue of December 10th

Top Stories
Home



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DECEMBER 10, 2001

Readers Report

U.S. EDITION
Full Table of Contents
Up Front
Readers Report
Opinion & Analysis
Commentary
Technology & Web
Financial Markets
Business Outlook
News & Analysis
Commentary

IN BUSINESS: This Week
Cover story: Microsoft
Microsoft's Business
International Outlook
Commentary
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Investment in the
Market
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International Business
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Special Advertising
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What Mankind Needs: Less Whining from Scott McNealy

Sun Microsystems CEO Scott G. McNealy thinks mankind needs a break from Microsoft Corp. ("Face-off," Cover Story, Nov. 19). What mankind really needs is a break from McNealy's incessant whining. Many people and businesses complain about Microsoft's monopoly. None has bothered to offer a superior product. Instead, they have used the government as a strategic weapon to cover their inability to develop something better. Microsoft may have a monopoly with Windows and Office, but it hasn't come close to the same level of domination on the Web. If it had, America Online Inc. wouldn't still be around.

Technology writers from many publications have pointed out many flaws, weak areas, poor designs, and glitches in Microsoft products. What does it say about the rest of the software industry that Microsoft was able to achieve a monopoly with such imperfect products? Innovation won't happen just because the government suppresses Microsoft.

William A. Kirsten
Gaylord, Mich.

We have been reading Scott McNealy's "trash talk" for years. I would suggest he start concentrating on his own company's failings.

W. Donald Sally
Lake Forest, Ill.

If McNealy could just hold on for a few years, perhaps he could find another Administration like that of Bill Clinton. He could again donate heavily to the Democratic Party and again get them to shackle his competition.

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FINA
Market
EAP 500
Stocks & Bonds
Market

Stock Look

ON THIS PAGE

[What Mankind Needs: Less Whining from Scott McNealy](#)

[Write the Right Laws to Rein in Software Makers](#)

[There's Nothing Wrong with Accounting Principles](#)

[Will Merrill Lynch Still Welcome Small Accounts?](#)

[One Voice: TIAA-CREF Investor Is No Proxy for All](#)

http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/01_50/c3761023.htm

12/01/2001

BW Online | December 10, 2001 | What Mankind Needs: Less Whining from Scott McNea... Page 3 of 4

to work full-time. We in the industry hope that McNealy got the message.

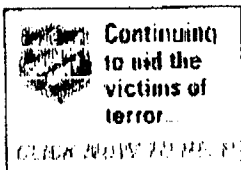
Jonathan Zuck
Association for
Competitive Technology
Washington

What if that softie [antitrust chief] Charles James limited what
BusinessWeek could charge at the newsstand?

Patrick M. Code
Alpena, Mich.

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Come on McNealy: Suck it up, and compete like a big boy!

Joe R. Donathan
Centennial, Colo.

Scott McNealy's outlandish attacks on Bill Gates and Microsoft, and his sophomoric humor, make one wonder why Sun Microsystems stockholders put up with this overgrown child

Norman Cohen
Potomac, Md.

Write the Right Laws to Rein in Software Makers

Animals that prey on others are usually successful only against the old and the lame. That is all that Microsoft has done ("Settlement or sellout?" Cover Story, Nov. 19). WordPerfect failed to innovate, so Word won. Lotus failed to innovate, so Excel won. Netscape never stood a chance as a stand-alone, so Internet Explorer won. Microsoft had nothing with which to compete when it took these entities on, so it beat them fair and square.

Microsoft has not beaten RealAudio, Adobe Systems, Intuit, Norton, and many others, because those companies innovated and improved their products. We the consumers and users have only stood to gain by letting the better innovator vanquish the lesser. Microsoft should use everything in its arsenal to compete. That is inherent in our economic system.

Richard S. Mitnick
Highland Park, N.J.

If lawmakers had made software developers accountable for the operation of their wares, the Microsoft debacle could have been avoided. Microsoft would have had to recall products that crashed. It would have been less tempted to develop "bloatware" and bundle others' products into its own, lest it cause crashes. Taxpayers would have saved a lot of money.

Tony Payne
Hong Kong

"Slapping Microsoft's wrist" (Editorials, Nov. 19) relies heavily on Scott McNealy's constant mischaracterizations of the Microsoft settlement. The piece recites the vague and sometimes blatantly inaccurate complaints about the settlement that are often cited by Microsoft's largest rivals.

Coming after three years of litigation, the settlement between the Justice Dept. and Microsoft should finally allow the software industry to get back